

"Get A Life!"

- Last year, Americans forfeited an average of four vacation days each – at least 574 million days off from work that were lost. (according to Harris Interactive survey)
- "Taking a vacation is as important as watching your cholesterol or exercising."
(Joe Robinson, author Work to Live; A Guide to Getting a Life)
- AAA's 2006 annual Vacation Costs survey says a family of two adults and two children can expect to pay an average of \$261 a day for food and lodging.



Travel Trends

- 51% surveyed plan to book all their summer vacation on the internet -42% prefer to speak to an agent.
- 20% surveyed are planning a vacation rental rather than a hotel this summer.
- 66% surveyed plan to stay in the U.S. this summer
- 46% surveyed plan to visit family and friends
(polls conducted by Zogby International for AOL Travel and Sunset Magazine)



Planning a Family Vacation

- Determine your budget
 - Remember quality is more important than quantity
 - Always consider how much money you have to spend – not how many days you have
 - Design a vacation around available funds

Calculate your budget:

Total amount ÷ amount per day = number of days



Involve Everyone in Planning

- If you are planning a family vacation, include all members in the planning process
- Include something for everyone
- Take advantage of the educational opportunities it provides for the entire family. Read, research and discuss options.
- Check out www.vacationkids.com



Budget Tips to Get Started

- Plan early
- Travel Off Season
- Be flexible
 - Dates
 - Travel times
 - Stop-overs
 - Airports
- Get a credit card that offers rewards*
DisclaimerIf you do not pay off the balance each month, the rewards are not worth having the card!



Rewards Credit Cards

- Select a card with rewards that matches your travel. Examples: Traveling by car get a card that offers 5% rebate on gas vs. mileage rewards.
- Read the disclaimer statement and know your coverage. There are many travel advantages such as:
 - Travel insurance
 - Lost baggage coverage
 - Currency conversion
 - Safest form of payment



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Where to Look for Great Deals

- www.cheaptickets.com cheapometer forecasts the best months to travel to different destinations.
 - www.bestfares.com last minute deals.
 - The usual sites: www.travelocity.com, www.orbitz.com or www.expedia.com
 - www.costco.com discount rental cars and travel packages.
 - www.travelchannel.com
 - www.bookingbuddy.com
- **Check for hidden service fees.****



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Great Deals (continued)



- www.sidestep.com rates on rental cars
- www.longtemparking.com airport parking
- www.valupak.com and www.hotcoupons.com have entertaining coupons when the zip code for destination city is entered.
- www.entertainment.com entertainment book for destination you are traveling
- Check at the airport for a display of local promotions and coupons.
- Ask the locals

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Parks and Attractions

- www.themeparkinside.com Money saving secrets at theme parks
- www.alhfam.org The Association for Living History, Farm and Agriculture Museums.
- www.historyisfun.org
- www.hfmgv.org
- www.connerprarie.org
- www.citipass.com Attractions for less
- Look for admission free days on their web site.



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"Road Trip Tips"

- Check out gas prices with www.gasbuddy.com and www.gaspricewatch.com
- Know roadside assistance numbers such as *11
- Be prepared for the unexpected.



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When is a Bargain a Bargain?

- Select a good travel guide. Become familiar with their rating system for hotels and attractions
- Understand industry terminology
- When comparing costs, compare the same categories and/or class of service



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"Make the Journey more than just a Destination!"



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Enjoy the Journey

- Plan your vacation to begin as soon as you leave home.
- Plan to enjoy travel time – include favorite healthy snacks, a book or DVD that you haven't had time to get to or your favorite music.
- Plan a travel bag for children. Include their favorite items along with travel games, books about the destination and a few surprises!
- Take advantage of stops – try local cuisine or take a break to stretch your legs and see the sights.



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Plan, Plan, Plan



1. Check online for the Visitors Bureau for the destination you plan to visit. Using their website; look for discounts, coupons or 2-for-1 offers (or AOL City Guide).
2. Sign up for their newsletter. It often contains discount information on lodging or restaurants.
3. Check the web sites for the local attractions or museums you plan to visit. Many have discount coupons on line.
4. Check with AAA and Map Quest for maps of the area. (They may also have discount coupons).

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Hotels

- What is your best rate?
- Do you have any promotions?
- Does it include breakfast? If breakfast is not included, try a local bakery – it will be cheaper!
- www.hoteldiscount.com will refund the difference if you find a lower rate in 3 days
- www.quickbook.com
- Ask for AAA or AARP rates
- Join loyalty programs, they often include upgrades, free stays, newspapers, etc.



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Frequent Flyer Miles/ Points

- Take advantage of Frequent Flyer programs.
- Use credit cards that accumulate miles
- Miles expiring? (generally after 3 years)
 - Check the airline web site for retail partners (mileage for meals or dining rewards)
 - Take advantage of offers to purchase miles
 - Check out e-miles.com or other online programs that offer miles
 - Look for hotel partners that offer points for hotel stays and airline miles (double dip!)



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Every Mile Counts!

- Sign up for frequent flyer programs. It is easier to have them expire than find out you are traveling more and could have used them.
- When traveling international, check their domestic code share partners. You will be more likely to get a ticket with a domestic carrier.



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Get the Most Out of Your Miles

- Plan in advance. Seats become available about 330 days before the flight date. They are limited – the early bird gets the seat!
- Book through the airline – there are generally more options available than online
- Not enough miles for a ticket – see if you can use miles for an upgrade
- Use miles toward hotels or car rentals
- Use miles for merchandise



Frequent Flyer Regulations

- Frequent Flyer programs are not regulated by the Federal Trade Commission or the Department of Transportation – requirements can be changed at any time.
- You may have “earned” miles, but you do not own them. They can be cancelled if an airline folds.



Airline Ticketing



5JUN-FR-9A SLCLAX(SLCOLA) MT PT
LAX ALTERNATE BUR LGB ONT SNA
1*S#DL3977 Y9 B9 M9 H9 Q9 K9 L9 U9 SLCLAX 700A 755A *N CRJ OE
T9
2*S#DL1292 F9 A9 Y9 B9 M9 H9 Q9 K9 SLCLAX 837A 931A 9 M90 OE
L9 U9 T9
3*S#DL 851 F9 A9 Y9 B9 M9 H9 Q9 K9 SLCLAX 941A1038A N M90 OE
L9 U9 T9
4*S#DL 978 F9 A9 Y9 B9 M9 H9 Q9 K9 SLCLAX 1110A1205P N 738 OE
L9 U9 T9
5*S#DL1743 F6 A6 Y6 B6 M6 H6 Q6 K6 SLCLAX 150P 249P N M90 OE
L9 U9 T9
6*S#DL 907 F9 A9 Y9 B9 M9 H9 Q9 K9 SLCLAX 315P 405P N 757 OE
L9 U9 T2



Comparison Shop

MONEYSAVER FARES ** LOADED 16MAY 14:21EDT/16MAY 18:21GMT
SLCLAX NLX FARES FOR TRVL 12JUN07 AND TKTG 16MAY
US TAXES VARY
* SEG/PFC CHARGES MAY APPLY
LN AL F.B.C. USD OW RT EFF LTK AP MINMAX
1 US #EXR7NJA 148.00 15MAY07 - ## -/-
2 FG #R14TWNB 79.00 158.00 9MAY07 - ## -/-
3 UA #TOA14VAN 79.00 158.00 15MAY07 - ## -/-
4 US #EZAUSJ4 79.00 158.00 10MAY07 - ## -/-
5 US #EJA7SJA 89.00 178.00 9MAY07 - ## -/-
6 FG #W7XWNB 89.00 178.00 9MAY07 - ## -/-
7 FG #W14NBX 83.00 186.00 9MAY07 - ## -/-
8 US #EXAUSJ4 93.00 186.00 10MAY07 - ## -/-
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“Prepare for the
unexpected!”



Be Prepared

- Know the airport rules. Check prior to travel for any changes.
- Know the baggage restrictions for the airlines you will be traveling.
- Carry medications, toiletries and a change of clothing in your carry-on luggage.
- If possible, select one flight prior to the last one that connects to an international flight.
- Allow one day after your projected return, if traveling internationally, to accommodate delays.
- Know the passport, visa and/or entry requirements.
www.unitedstatesvisas.gov or travel.state.gov/visa
- Safety issues travel.state.gov
- Immunizations www.cdc.gov/travel



Know Passport Laws

- Anyone traveling outside the U.S. needs a passport
- Check the requirements for the country you are traveling to – most require at least six months prior to expiration for the return date of your trip
- Order passports early to avoid higher processing fees
- Keep a copy of your passport



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Travel Insurance

- Read your policy
- Keep all documentation
- Know your options
- Check out coverage offered by credit cards



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Know Who You Are Traveling With!



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No one realizes how beautiful
it is to travel until he comes
home and rests his head on
his old, familiar pillow.

~Lin Yutang



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Travel Smart

Joanne Roueche, CFCS
USU Extension/ Davis County



With the summer travel season fast approaching, it is time to finish up on the final details for the family vacation. According to polls conducted by Zogby International for AOL Travel and Sunset Magazine, the anticipated travel trends for 2008 are:

- 66% plan to stay in the U.S. this summer.
- 46% plan to utilize their vacation to visit family and friends.
- 51% plan to book all their summer vacation arrangements on the internet, 42% prefer to talk to a travel agent.
- 37% plan to stay with friends or family for lodging.

It really doesn't matter what we choose as a family vacation – it matters that we do it! According to Joe Robinson, author of *Work to Live: A Guide to Getting a Life*, "taking a vacation is as important as watching your cholesterol or exercising." Last year Americans forfeited an average of four vacation days each – at least 574 million days off from work that were lost.

Start by planning your budget. Remember that quality is more important than quantity. Take the available dollar amount you have to spend on a vacation, divide it by the average cost per day and you will have the number of days you can realistically hope to spend on a vacation. Your vacation should be designed around the available funds – not the number of days you could take off from work.

$$\frac{\text{Total Vacation \$}}{\text{Estimated Cost Per Day}} = \text{Number of Vacation Days}$$



Budget tips to get started:

- Plan your trip early –set dates and desired destination.
- Travel off season—if possible.
- Be flexible
 - Dates
 - Travel times
 - Stop-overs
 - Airports
- Get a credit card that offers rewards for travel or gasoline. (Remember the rewards will not off-set the cost of interest if you carry a balance.)



Before you go:

- Check out coupons for long-term parking www.longtermparking.com
- Look for ways to save on meals such as www.entertainment.com
- www.valupak.com or www.hotcoupons.com.
- Headed to a themepark? www.themeparkinside.com.
- Get a passport well in advance. Make sure all passports have at least six months left prior to the expiration date for your return travel.
- Make a copy of your passport and all items in your wallet/purse to keep in a safety deposit box at the hotel or with someone that will be at home.

Hit the Road!

- Generally less expensive for families with a number of small children to travel by automobile.
- Check at www.gasbuddies.com or www.gaspricewatch.com for the cheapest gas prices.
- Use a credit card that offers rewards or cash back on gas purchases. (These savings won't help unless you pay your balance off each month!)
- Check for wholesale or discount pricing such as Costco or Smith's savings. Look for gas, groceries or travel discounts.
- Get an added bonus by checking out www.Upromise.com. Without additional effort, you may be able to receive a little extra in your child's 529 education fund!
- Keep your car in shape. You will save on gas with a properly-tuned engine, tires properly inflated, clean air filter and remove unnecessary weight from the trunk.
- Know what driving tips will make a difference. Check the fuel economy results at www.Edmunds.com.
- Know roadside assistance numbers such as *11.
- Know your cell phone coverage areas.

Do Your Homework!

- Check the visitor's bureau for the destination you plan to visit. Request a visitor's guide or information kit and listing of upcoming events. Many sites offer discount coupons for attractions, restaurants and hotels.
- Check web sites for attractions and/or museums you would like to visit. Note the times of operation and location. Don't be disappointed by construction or closing.
- Check the website carefully for discount coupons, free admission days, group discounts for AARP, AAA, military personnel, etc. Web sites like www.valpak.com and www.hotcoupons.com have coupons for specific zip codes.
- Check out bus, subway or trolley passes.
- Check with hotel concierge for recommended restaurants, activities and discounts.
- Many hotel and airports have attraction and/or magazine racks that have coupons for discounts or buy one get one free.
- Ask the locals. They always know the best places to eat or visit!



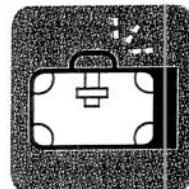
Traveling with Children...

- Check the local library for books on your destination, children's travel guides, or websites that have travel information intended for children.
- Vacations are a fun time to introduce youth to one of many 4-H projects such as leaf collecting, bug collecting, history or heritage projects. They will get more out of their vacation than you ever imagined!
- Plan fun things for the road. Be prepared with nutritious snacks, travel games, word puzzles or a fun toy.
- Check out www.vacationkids.com for additional travel games and ideas.
- The Association for Living History, Farm and Agriculture Museums: www.alhfam.org, www.historyisfun.org, www.hfmgv.org.
- Always have proper identification for your children. You should have it with you—but they need identification on them!

Make the journey more than just the destination!

Frequent Flyer Miles

- Before you let those miles expire, go to the web site and do a little research. Check the airline partners to see if any of their offers will fit your plans. It is often possible to go to a partner retailer and purchase a book, etc, and receive miles for it. Check out their mileage for meals programs.
- Check hotel loyalty programs. Many programs offer miles and hotel points.
- Check your credit cards. Know the miles programs that are offered. Many of the credit card air miles programs do not have black out dates for reward travel.
- Check to see if you can receive frequent flyer miles for your credit card mileage reward ticket.
- Know the airline partners that code share with your frequent flyer program. Whenever possible, use a domestic airline's code share program on international travel. You will be more likely to get enough points for a ticket.
- Most airline frequent flyer seats become available 330 days prior to travel. Book as early as possible to get a seat.
- Not enough miles? If possible, use them for hotel stays or car rentals.



"Up in the Air"

Keep photo ID handy.

Print boarding passes before going to the airport whenever possible.

Know the baggage restrictions. Weight restrictions are 50 pounds per piece for most airlines. Some will allow a passenger to pay for overage—others will simply not accept the bag. Is there a weight limit on carry-on luggage?

Know the airport restrictions.
Are you using a smaller carrier within a country? Do you know their weight restrictions?

Shop airports. Often the suburban airports are less than a major hub.

Keep gifts unwrapped for security purposes.

Avoid carrying valuables.

Be prepared for delays. Don't let the unexpected be the last thing you remember about your trip!

International Travel

Only about 20% of airline flights taken by Americans are international flights. Before you go; check travel safety, health immunization recommendations and visa requirements.

Dress comfortable/ dress smart. Avoid airline delays by being prepared. Wear shoes that are easy to remove, and empty pockets/watches into your carry on bag. Wear non-binding clothing for long flights.

Carry a spare. Always carry an extra set of clothing, prescriptions and basic hygiene essentials with you. If luggage is lost or misplaced, your trip will not be completely ruined!

Many flights connect from east or west coast cities. Whenever possible, take one flight earlier than necessary to connect with your international flight. If by chance, the flight is cancelled, you will still make your international flight.

When returning, allow plenty of time to clear immigration, customs and connect to your flight home.

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."

~St. Augustine~